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September 30, 2020

#### **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd Chief Clerk and Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

Re: Actions in Response to COVID-19

Docket No. 2020-106-A

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Pursuant to Commission Order No. 2020-372, enclosed for filing with the Commission is the COVID-19 Revenue Impact, Cost and Savings Report through August 31, 2020 of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. in Docket No. 2020-106-A.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions regarding this filing, you may reach me at the number shown above.

Sincerely,

/s/ T. Richmond McPherson III

T. Richmond McPherson

TRM/sko

Enclosure

cc: ORS

Bruce Barkley Pia Powers

#### Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.

# COVID-19 Revenue Impact, Cost and Savings Report through August 31, 2020 PSCSC Docket No. 2020-106-A

Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont" and "the Company") provides this quarterly Report of Revenue Impact, Cost and Savings pursuant to the Commission's Order No. 2020-372.

## I. Revenue Impact

Piedmont's rates to recover its cost of service assume certain amounts of throughput. That throughput has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Throughput and revenue losses through August 31, 2020 are estimated as follows. The estimated revenue losses for the sale and transportation of gas is shown net of associated gas costs recovered by Piedmont through its Purchased Gas Adjustment.

Customer Group	Est. Throughput Losses	Est. Gas Sales &	
	(dts)	Transportation Revenue	
		Losses (net of gas costs)	
Residential Service	(14,000)	(\$43,000)	
Small General Service	(224,000)	(\$741,000)	
Medium General Service	(52,000)	(\$173,000)	
Large General Service	(200,000)	(\$110,000)	
Total	(490,000)	(\$1,067,000)	

### II. Incremental COVID-19 Costs and Savings

Through August 2020, the Company has experienced incremental costs related to protecting employees and customers during the pandemic and ensuring continuity and quality of service to customers in a safe manner. These costs are described further below:

- Waived customer fees: On March 21, 2020, the Company waived all late-payment charges, return check charges, and reconnection fees. These waivers were still in effect as of August 31, 2020.
- Bad debt/customer charge-offs: In order to protect customers that are expected to be

impacted by the economic downturn of the pandemic, no disconnect for non-payment orders were implemented by the Company beginning March 13, 2020. This suspension of disconnect orders was still in effect as of August 31, 2020. The resulting increase in customer balances and the challenging economic environment are expected to impact customers' ability to pay utility bills. The Company will continue to monitor this impact.

- **Employee stipends**: Certain eligible employees received a one-time cash payment of \$1,500 to help with unplanned expenses associated with COVID-19.
- Employee safety-related costs, including costs for remote work: The Company has provided, and will continue to provide, employees with the appropriate personal protective equipment to facilitate the continuation of work for customers in a safe manner. Piedmont has also incurred incremental costs associated with cleaning supplies, health care, as well as testing and temperature checks. In order to facilitate employees working remotely to protect their health and safety during the pandemic, the Company has also incurred incremental costs associated with expanded conference line capacity, increased network bandwidth, other required information technology improvements, expanded video conferencing licenses, and increased Company cellular telephone and data usage.

In addition to these expenses, Piedmont has included below certain estimated savings through August 2020 directly related to COVID-19 from reduced employee expenses due to travel restrictions and postage/print savings due to not sending disconnect letters.

Summary of SC Incremental COVID-19 Costs, Net of Savings through August 31, 2020 (\$ in thousands)

Customer Fees Waived	
Employee Stipends	
Safety Related – PPE, testing, signage, extra cleaning, remote work, etc.	
Employee expenses – Travel restrictions/employee meals, etc.	
Postage and Print savings due to no disconnect letters	
Total	

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached is being served this date upon all of the parties to this docket electronically or by depositing a copy of the same in the United States Mail, First Class Postage Prepaid, at the addresses contained in the official service list in this proceeding.

This the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

/s/ Sloane K. O'Hare

Sloane K. O'Hare